
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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SENATOR GREGG SECURES \$250,000 FOR NH WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Funds focus on black bear, white-tailed deer damage control and disease mitigation

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced that he has included \$250,000 for the New Hampshire Wildlife Damage Management Assistance Program in the Fiscal Year 2004 Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday. The program, which will use the funding to focus on black bear conflict prevention and damage mitigation for both black bears and white-tailed deer, is a joint initiative between the State of New Hampshire and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist those having problems with wildlife. The program will also increase disease surveillance and monitoring among various species. The bill is now ready for consideration by the entire Senate later this year.

Senator Gregg stated, "Thousands of species of animals live and thrive in New Hampshire forests and woodlands, making for some of the best wildlife habitat in the northeast. However, as our State has grown, so have instances of animals either damaging crops or private property, and in the worst case, hurting humans. This funding will allow the State, working with the USDA, to prevent or repair the negative effects of wildlife in communities across New Hampshire. Another important component of this program is its focus on animal diseases, examining which diseases are prevalent in a given year and the implications they may have on local populations."

Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department William Bartlett stated, "The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services has a long history of cooperative efforts to assist agricultural producers, private landowners, municipalities and others experiencing conflicts with wildlife in the Granite State. Thanks to Senator Gregg's steadfast support of wildlife conservation in all forms, this infusion of additional money provides us with the opportunity to enhance our existing, but limited, wildlife damage control programs. This funding will allow us to expand our efforts pertaining to issues like black-bear/human conflict mitigation, white-tailed deer damage prevention, and wildlife disease surveillance and monitoring, all of which have increased substantially in importance over the past decade."

For more information, contact Bill Bartlett at (603) 271-3421.

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